REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. Claims 25-27 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-24 are rejected. Specifically, claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Han et al. Claims 1-24 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by JP-2001-043515. Claims 1-24 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Katakura. Claims 1-24 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-2001-028110.

Claims 1-27 are cancelled. New claims 28-34 have been added.

Support for new claim 28 is found in original claims 1 and 10. The additional support for new claim 29 is found in original claim 11. The additional support for new claim 30 is found in original claims 13, 14, and 21. The additional support for new claim 31 is found in original claims 13, 14, and 22. Support for new claim 32 is found in original claims 1, 13, 14, and 21. Support for new claim 33 is found in original claims 1, 13, 14, and 22. The additional support for new claim 34 is found in original claim 21.

New claim 28 specifies that the second polymer comprises a deep ultraviolet resist. Nowhere in the cited references has the applicant found disclosed or suggested the use of a deep ultraviolet resist. Therefore new claim 28 is novel and nonobvious.

New claim 29 depends upon claim 28 and also specifies that the first and second developers are the same. Nowhere in the cited references has the applicant found the use of the same developers for the first and second polymers disclosed nor suggested. Therefore new claim 29 is novel and nonobvious.

New claim 30 depends upon claim 28 and also includes the step of, "ion beam milling the magnetoresistive layer structure to form the magnetoresistive sensor, wherein the magnetoresistive sensor has a trackwidth narrower than 0.2 microns." Nowhere in the cited references is a magnetoresistive sensor having such a narrow trackwidth disclosed nor suggested. Therefore new claim 30 is novel and nonobvious.

New claim 31 depends upon claim 28 and also includes the step of, "ion beam milling the magnetoresistive layer structure to form the magnetoresistive sensor, wherein the magnetoresistive sensor has a trackwidth to thickness ratio of less than or equal to 4 to 1." Nowhere in the cited references is such a trackwidth to thickness ratio disclosed nor suggested. Therefore new claim 31 is novel and nonobvious.

New claim 32 includes the steps and limitations of original claims 1, 13, 14, and 21. In particular, it restricts the trackwidth of the magnetoresistive sensor to be narrower than 0.2 microns. Of all the references cited, only Han discloses a resist bridge with a width narrower than 0.2 micron, and this only in the claims. The specified limitation of

the resultant trackwidth is not obvious in view of Han's claims. Therefore new claim 32 is novel and nonobvious.

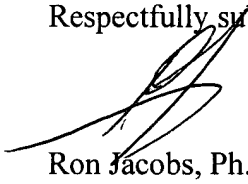
New claim 33 includes the steps and limitations of original claims 1, 13, 14, and 22. In particular, it restricts the trackwidth to thickness ratio of the magnetoresistive sensor to be less than or equal to 4 to 1. Such a ratio is not disclosed nor suggested in any of the references. Therefore new claim 33 is novel and nonobvious.

New claim 34 depends upon new claim 33 and further specifies that the trackwidth of the magnetoresistive sensor be narrower than 0.2 microns. As discussed previously, such a narrow trackwidth is neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the references. Therefore new claim 34 is novel and nonobvious.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above comments, the applicants respectfully submit that this patent application is in condition for allowance. Early action to this end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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